SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Friday, January 22, 1993
Room BC-110, 14:00

Present: P. Bird, U. de Brentani, A. Braun (recording sect'y.), T. Bui (Chair), A.B. Ibrahim, P. Lightbown, K. Lipke, D. Markiewicz, T.S. Sankar, P. Shizgal, C. Suen, K. Thulasiraman, A. Williams, A. Zaidi

Absent: S. Chowdhury, C. Nero

Regrets: A. Homzy

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1. Approval of Agenda.

The Chair added "Response to University Capital Campaign - Draft Table of Needs" to item 8 of the Agenda and it was approved by the Committee.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the November 26, 1992 meeting.

Members of the Committee expressed opinions that the minutes are too long and should be shortened. The minutes of the last meeting have been approved with some minor changes which will be sent to the Secretary for corrections.

3. Report of the Chair

The Chair welcomed Mr. Asif Zaidi as a Graduate Students representative to the Senate Research Committee. He then announced that Bill C93 regarding the merging of SSHRC and Canada Council was tabled at parliament before Christmas. The president of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities has written to all universities to request further input from the research community to fight this bill. Concordia has submitted two submissions: one by K. Lipke (Fine Arts) and one by J. Herz (Arts & Science). Regarding the *Politique de Recherche Conjointe Inter-universitaire*, the Chair pointed out the importance of this document.

The Chair also thanked the members of the Senate Research Committee for their active participation in the FCAR visit. The letter from A. Marrec, President and Director General of FCAR, describes the success of the visit.

4. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

NSERC has postponed the new collaborative research programme. However, SSHRC is going ahead with their collaborative programme.

NSERC strategic grant applications are now available from Research Services and will be forwarded to researchers on request. Deadline for the NSERC Strategic Grants has been advanced to early April and will be due in ORS by April 1.

Regarding the NSERC International Fellowship Programme, there were approximately 30 nominations put forward. The University Committee submitted the three best nominations based on the established criteria.

Regarding FRDP, the second start up competition has been completed. There were 15 awards made for a total of $140,000. The earlier Fall competition for Start up grants awarded 23 grants for a total of $237,000.

The new competition for the Fonds des Services aux Collectivites will be mid-March. A proposal will probably be submitted by Continuing Education for Training and Community Development.

Research funding for the second quarter of 1992-93 is $11,533,862, an 8% increase over the same period for last year.

John Fryer has joined the Office of Research Services as Computer Systems and Statistics Manager. John will be replacing Chris Tawtel and undertaking other related activities.

5. Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities (*SRC-93-1-D4)

After a brief discussion on the mandate of the Task Force, the Chair summarized the comments and recommended that the Senate Research Committee send the document prepared by D. Ginter as input to the Task Force. The Senate Research Committee will study the Task Force's report once it is completed.

6. Application for the Formation of Concordia Centre for Composites [CONCOM] (*SRC-93-1-D1)

Documents made available to members of the Senate Research Committee at the meeting consist of: a) Report from the Ad-hoc Evaluation Committee, b) Reports from the two external consultants, c) Revised proposal for the formation of Concordia Centre for Composites, and d) Resolution from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. After some discussion on the modifications to the revised proposal, which take into account the comments of both the Ad-hoc Committee and the external referees, the following motion was made by T. Sankar and seconded by C. Suen.

"Considering the report and the resolution of the Ad-hoc Evaluation Committee, and the revised proposal for the new Centre on Composite Materials, and

Considering the resolution of the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council,

Be it resolved that the Senate Research Committee recommend to Senate the establishment of the Concordia Centre for Composites (CONCOM)."

Motion was carried unanimously.

7. Proposal for the Restructuring of the Office of Research Services (*SRC-93-1-D2)

The Chair explained the review process of the ORS and the eventual retirement of the present Director, first on half-time starting June 1, 1993 then on full retirement from June 1, 1994. The review committee's report as well as the external consultants' reports have all emphasized the need to restructure this office. The proposal (SRC-93-1-D2) is to implement some of these recommendations. Discussions show that there is a strong support for the restructuring plan in the proposal for 93-94 and 94-95. However, any restructuring of the Industrial Liaison Office should wait for the completion of the review process of that office some time later in the fall. The following motion was then moved:

"The Senate Research Committee recognizes

that the Office of Research Services (ORS) has done an outstanding job in serving the research community at Concordia University and that its services are essential to the continuing enhancement of research activities;

that the tasks for which the ORS is responsible are increasing rapidly; and

that there is a need to minimize the difficulties associated with the transition in leadership of the ORS (due to retirements) in 1993-94.

The Senate Research Committee endorses

the mission statement of the ORS and its restructuring plan for 1993-94 and 1994-95 as contained in the document #SRC-93-1-D2.

Further, the Senate Research Committee recommends

that the university give serious consideration to the proposal for restructuring beyond 1994-95 as described in the same document."

The Senate Research Committee supported these statements unanimously.

8. Varia - University Capital Campaign - Draft Table of Needs

T. Sankar presented a response to the Draft table of Needs for the upcoming Capital Campaign. After discussion, the following motion was made by A. Ibrahim and seconded by P. Shizgal:

"That Senate Research Committee fully endorses the Draft Table of Needs for the Capital Campaign as recommended by the University Advancement Committee and approved by the Board of Governors and further supports strongly the following priority "Needs" items which impact on the advancement of research at the University:

1. Funding for academic chairs and distinguished professorships in all the University-faculties,

2. Support for research projects and enhancement of laboratories in all the faculties,

3. Support for the establishment of research activities by newly hired faculty,

4. Interdisciplinary research programs, visiting scholars support and postgraduate fellowships for the school of graduate studies, and

5. Enhancement of library research collections, in particular research journal acquisitions, and associated research facilities support programs."

Motion was carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment